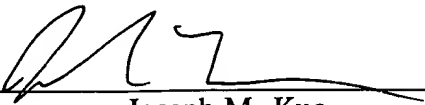


Serial No. 09/972,812
Filed: October 5, 2001

-21-

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being sent via facsimile transmission to (703) 872-9303 on September 23, 2003.



Joseph M. Kuo

#14/C



CMS-012

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Thomas Clement Barthel, et al.)
Serial No.: 09/972,812) Group Art Unit: 3739
Filed: October 5, 2001) Examiner: Jocelyn Debra Ram
For: ENDOSCOPE WITH FLEXIBLE)
LIGHT GUIDE HAVING OFFSET)
DISTAL END)

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JUNE 23, 2003

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action Mailed June 23, 2003, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following amendments. For the reasons set forth in the remarks section of this response, Applicants traverse the rejections and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Status of the Claims is reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.